

Raritan Bay Slag

New Jersey

EPA ID#: NJN000206276

EPA REGION 2

Congressional District(s): 06

Middlesex

Old Bridge and Sayreville, New Jersey

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 4/9/2009

Final Date: 11/4/2009

Site Description

The Raritan Bay Slag Site is located in the Laurence Harbor section of Old Bridge and in Sayreville, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The Site spans approximately 1.3 miles in length and consists of the waterfront area between Margaret's Creek and the area just beyond the western jetty at the Cheesquake Creek Inlet. The portion of the Site that is situated in Laurence Harbor is part of what is now called the Old Bridge Waterfront Park. The park is made up of walking paths, a playground area, several public beaches, and three jetties, not including the two jetties at the Cheesquake Creek Inlet. The park waterfront is protected by a seawall. The Laurence Harbor seawall was reported to have had metal slag from blast furnace bottoms deposited along the beachfront in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Approximately 2,500 feet of the seawall have been contaminated. The western jetty at the Cheesquake Creek Inlet and the adjoining waterfront area west of the jetty are located in Sayreville and contain slag as well. The slag was placed at the Site approximately 40 years ago. The seawall, jetties, beach area east of the Cheesquake Creek Inlet, and the western jetty at the Cheesquake Creek Inlet are popular fishing areas. The beaches east of the Cheesquake Creek Inlet and west of the seawall appear to be the most popular for swimming.

In September 1972, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) was advised by a local government official that lead-bearing waste material was being disposed of along the Laurence Harbor beachfront on Raritan Bay. Old Bridge officials worked with NJDEP to notify the public in writing about health concerns for the lead waste material and restricted access by means of signage and some fencing.

Site Responsibility: The site is being addressed through federal actions.

Threat and Contaminants

Elevated levels of lead and other heavy metals are present in the soil, sediment, and surface water. The primary contaminant of concern is lead. Analytical results from sampling in 2007 found lead at concentrations as high as 142,000 parts per million at the jetty and seawall.

There is a potential for persons to be exposed since the area is used for swimming, fishing, and other recreational purposes.

Cleanup Approach

On April 9, 2009, the site was included on the National Priorities List.

A remedial investigation and feasibility study was initiated in August 2009. The search for potentially responsible parties has been initiated.

Response Action Status

EPA collected samples at the Site in September 2008 as part of an Integrated Assessment. The sampling included the collection of soil, sediment, water, biological, and waste samples along the seawall in Laurence Harbor, the western jetty at the Cheesquake Creek Inlet, the beaches situated near these two locations, and the developed portion of the park. Analytical results generated by both EPA and NJDEP indicate that significantly elevated levels of lead and other heavy metals are present in the soils, sediment, and surface water in and around both the seawall in Laurence Harbor and the western jetty at the Cheesquake Creek Inlet.

At the request of EPA, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, in cooperation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, evaluated the analytical data generated from the samples collected at the Site. Their findings concluded that, due to the elevated lead levels, a Public Health Hazard exists at the seawall in Laurence Harbor, the beach between the western end of the seawall and the first jetty, and the western jetty at the Cheesequake Creek Inlet, including the waterfront area immediately west of the inlet. As a result of this determination, EPA restricted access to these areas (by installing fencing and posting signs) and provided public outreach to inform residents and those using these areas of the health hazard that exists.

On September 25, 2009, EPA entered into an Inter-Agency Agreement with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to conduct the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

Cleanup Progress

The remedial investigation is ongoing with an estimated completion in winter 2012. EPA will develop a cleanup plan for public review after completion of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

Site Repositories

USEPA Records Center 290 Broadway, 18th floor New York, NY 10007 (212) 637-4308 Hours: M - F 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Old Bridge Central Library 1 Old Bridge Plaza Municipal Center Old Bridge, NJ 08857 Hours: M - F 9:30 am - 9 pm Sat. 9:30 - 5 Sunday 12:30 - 5

Sayreville Library 1050 Washington Rd. Parlin, NJ 08859 (732)727-0212 Hours: M-T 9:30 - 7:45 PM Fri and Sat. 9:30 - 4:45 pm, Sun 1 - 4:45 pm